



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS FUGITIVE ALIEN WANTED FOR MURDER

Illegal alien allegedly killed a Mexican police officer

DURANGO, Colo. — A illegal alien wanted for killing a Mexican police officer was repatriated back to Mexico early this morning by special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Jose Luis Ventura-Molina, 48, aka Manuel Avila, was deported today after he was arrested following an anonymous tip in January made to ICE special agents in Alamosa, Colo., regarding his fugitive status for murdering a Michoacan, Mexico, police officer in 2001.



ICE Intelligence and International Affairs offices coordinated collecting information from Mexico's Procuraduria General de Justicia del Estado and the Agencia Federal de Investigaciones and confirmed the warrant through photographic and fingerprint identification.

Further investigation by ICE Alamosa special agents revealed that the slain Mexican police officer, Guillermo Menchaca-Escobar, was Ventura-Molina's son-in-law. Ventura-Molina reportedly fled Mexico following the murder and illegally entered the United States in 2002, taking up residence in the Alamosa area. Ventura-Molina was subsequently detained by local law enforcement in late 2004 on unrelated misdemeanor charges, and remained in prison until he was deported early this morning.

ICE database records revealed that Ventura-Molina was previously arrested and returned to Mexico under his assumed identity since U.S. law enforcement had not yet been informed of the Mexican murder warrant. Ventura-Molina later illegally re-entered the United States and continued to reside in Alamosa under his assumed identity until his arrest in late 2004.

“Our ICE special agents routinely work with all varieties of law enforcement, including international agencies, to bring criminals to justice,” said Jeffrey Copp, special agent-in-charge of the ICE Denver office. “It’s important that we send a strong signal that criminals will not be allowed to use the United States as a haven from prosecution.”

Ventura-Molina was flown from Durango, Colo., to California via government prisoner transport escorted by a senior special agent. He was then driven to the U.S.-Mexico border at San Ysidro, Calif., where he was turned over to Mexican authorities at the port of entry.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.